

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02565 01 OF 02 241437Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ACDA-07 ISO-00 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 DHA-02  
ERDA-05 OES-06 OMB-01 NRC-05 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /098 W  
-----241513 028168 /46

R 241340Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4496  
DIA WASHDC  
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM  
USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA  
CIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USDEL MBFR VIENNA  
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 2565

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PARM MILI SALT UR US

SUBJECT: SOVIET MILITARY LEADERS ON SALT

### 1. SUMMARY

CONVERSATIONS WITH SOVIET MILITARY LEADERS AT THE SOVIET  
ARMY-NAVY DAY RECEPTION ON 23 FEB PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING  
RESPONSES REGARDING THE PROSPECTS FOR SALT 11:

-- GENERAL STAFF CHIEF MARSHAL OGARKOV REFUSED TO BE DRAWN  
INTO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION ON THE ISSUE.

-- MPA CHIEF ARMY GEN YEPISHEV DESCRIBED ARMS CONTROL AS  
THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND SAID  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 02565 01 OF 02 241437Z

THAT OUR DIFFERENCES OVER HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD DEFINITELY  
NOT PRESENT AN OBSTACLE TO AGREEMENT. "IF THE US WANT  
PROGRESS IN DISARMAMENT," HE SATED, "IT CAN BE ACHIEVED."  
YEPISHEV'S COMMENTS WERE ECHOED IN STRONG TONES BY HIS  
DEPUTY, LT GEN SHEVCHENKO, IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION.

-- CDR OF THE MOSCOW MD, COL GEN GOVOROV ALSO EXPRESSED

OPTIMISM ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR CONCLUSION OF A SALT 11  
TREATY THIS YEAR

THE MPA GENERALS' EMPHASIS ON THE ABSENCE OF LINKAGE  
BETWEEN THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AND THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS  
IS PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ANNUAL 23 FEB RECEPTION ON SOVIET ARMY AND NAVY  
DAY PROVIDED A RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH  
SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET HIGH COMMAND. IN THE COURSE  
OF THE EVENING, AAIRA-1, MAJOR E. WARNER HAD DISCUSSIONS  
ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR THE SALT 11 NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL  
STAFF CHIEF, MARSHAL N. V. OGARKOV, THE CHIEF OF THE  
MAIN POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION (MPA), ARMY GEN A.A.  
YEPISHEV AND ONE OF HIS DEPUTIES, LT GEN A. M. SHEVCHENKO  
AND MOSCOW MILITARY DISTRICT CDR. COL GEN V. L. GOVOROV.

3. CONTACT WITH MARSHAL OGARKOV WAS BRIEF AND QUITE  
FORMAL AS THE NEWLY APPOINTED CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF  
WAS AT EASE BUT STANDOFFISH IN HIS EXCHANGE WITH AAIRA-1.  
OGARKOV ACCEPTED CONGRATULATIONS ON HIS RECENT REASSIGNMENT  
AND PROMOTION TO MARSHAL BUT DEFTELY DODGED ANY SUBSTAN-  
TIVE DISCUSSION OF SALT. IN RESPONSE TO COMMENT THAT  
WESTERN PRESS HAD SPECULATED THAT HIS PRESENCE AT SALT  
11 ALONG WITH US SECDEF BROWN MIGHT BE A POSITIVE  
FACTOR IN AIDING THE SEARCH FOR AGREEMENT IN SALT 11,  
OGARKOV LAUGHED THIS SUGGESTION ASIDE, NOTING THAT HE WELL REMEM-  
BERED HIS MEETINGS WITH DR. BROWN AND ASKING THAT HIS  
REGARDS BE CONVEYED TO THE SEC DEF. WHEN PRESSED FURTHER  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 02565 01 OF 02 241437Z

ABOUT CURRENT PROSPECTS FOR SALT 11, MARSHAL OGARKOV  
GOOD-NATUREDLY TERMINED THE CONVERSATION BY SIMPLY  
NOTING, "THIS IS ANOTHE MATTER."

4. CONVERSATIONS WITH MPA CHIEF ARMY GEN YEPISHEV AND  
ONE OF HIS DEPUTIES, LT GEN SHEVCHENKO, PROVED MORE INTER-  
ESTING. AAIRA-1 FIRST TALKED WITH SHEVCHENKO, WHO IS  
FREQUENTLY ACCESSIBLE AT LOWER LEVEL RECEPTIONS. SHEV-  
CHENKO READILY ADMITTED THAT HE WAS NO EXPERT ON MILITARY-  
TECHNICAL MATTERS BUT COMMENTED AT LENGTH ON ABSENCE OF  
LINKAGE BETWEEN US-SOVIET DIFFERENCES OVER HUMAN RIGHTS,  
AND THE PROSPECTS FOR SALT 11. HE WAS ADAMANT IN SAYING  
THAT OUR DIFFERENCES OVER SOVIET TREATMENT OF DISSIDENTS,  
WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS UNWARRANTED US INTERFERENCE IN  
SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS, SHOULD NOT BE AN OBSTACLE TO  
SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF A SALT 11 AGREEMENT. SHEVCHENKO  
STRESSED THAT MUTUAL SOVIET AMERICAN INTERESTS IN DISARM-  
AMENT AND THE AVOIDANCE OF NUCLEAR WAR REQUIRE SERIOUS  
EFFORTS AT SALT. HE CLAIMED THAT THERE IS NO OPPOSITION

TO A NEW SALT TREATY IN THE SOVIET UNION BUT ASSERTED THAT "CERTAIN CIRCLES" IN THE US, IN PARTICULAR THE "MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX", SEEK TO BLOCK ITS CONCLUSION. NEVERTHTLESS, HE SAID THAT HE ANTICIPATED THAT A NEW TREATY WOULD BE SIGNED IN 1977.

4. GENERAL A.A. YEPISHEV, THE SENIOR POLITICAL OFFICER IN THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES, EXPRESSED SIMILAR SENTIMENTS. ALTHOUGH HE HAS FREQUENTLY BEEN OUTSPOKEN IN HIS CRITICISM OF US POLICY IN THE PAST, YEPISHEV WAS UNUSUALLY MILD IN HIS COMMENTS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. HE FAILED TO CONDEMN "US INTERFERENCE" IN THIS REGARD, DESCRIBING IT SIMPLY AS "AN AMERICAN NOT A SOVIET PROBLEM." ALTHOUGH YEPISHEV EXPRESSLY EXCLUDED HIMSELF FROM THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR SOVIET SALT POLICY, HE SAID THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT OUR DIFFERENCES OVER HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD PRESENT NO OBSTACLE TO SUCCESS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 02565 01 OF 02 241437Z

AT SALT 11. HE DESCRIBED ARMS CONTROL AS OUR "MOST IMPORTANT MUTUAL PROBLEM" AND CONCLUDED THAT, "IF THE US WANTS PROGRESS IN DISARMAMENT, WE WILL HAVE PROGRESS."

5. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT SALT, COL GEN GOVOROV, THE YOUNG (52), UP AND COMING CDR OF THE MOSCOW MILITARY DISTRICT, DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS AN OPTIMIST AND SAID HE EXPECTED A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SALT AGREEMENT COULD BE WORKED OUT THIS YEAR.

6. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM OGARKOV'S UNFORTUNATE BUT CHARACTERISTICALLY NONCOMMITAL STATEMENTS, THESE SOVIET MILITARY LEADERS APPEARED OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02565 02 OF 02 241443Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ACDA-07 ISO-00 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 DHA-02  
ERDA-05 OES-06 OMB-01 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NRC-05 /098 W  
-----241513 028311 /46

R 241340Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4497  
DIA WASHDC  
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM  
USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA  
CIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USDEL MBFR VIENNA  
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 2565

SALT 11. IT IS PARTICULARLY STRIKING THAT MPA GENERALS  
YEPISHEV AND SHEVCHENKO CHOSE TO BRUSH ASIDE THE PROBLEMS  
ASSOCIATED WITH SOVIET-AMERICAN DIFFERENCES OVER HUMAN  
RIGHTS, AND STRESSED INSTEAD, THE PRIMARY IMPORTANCE OF  
SALT AND ARMS CONTROL.

7. FOR DIA ADMINISTRATIVE USE:

1. USSR (UR), 2. 6 901 0220 77 3. SOVIET MILITARY LEADERS  
ON SALT (U), 4., 5. 770223, 6. 770224, 7. 770223, MOSCOW  
USSR, 8. ICR: 1ALD9000/CONTINUES, 9. C-2, 10. USDAO MOSCOW  
USSR (AIRA), 11. OMIT, 12. EDWARD L. WARNER 111, MAJ, USAF,  
AAIRA-1, 13. JAMES W. WOLD, BRIG GEN, USAF, DATT, 14.  
PERSONAL CONVERSATIONS, 15. NON-DIRC

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 02565 02 OF 02 241443Z

TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 24-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MOSCOW02565  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770064-0537  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MOSCOW  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770213/aaaaalse.tel  
**Line Count:** 208  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** c066c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3241736  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOVIET MILITARY LEADERS ON SALT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PARM, MILI, UR, US  
**To:** STATE DIA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c066c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009